

Family Education Newsletter

KENTUCKY SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

APRIL 2004

KEEPING FAMILIES INFORMED...

by Fran Hardin, Director of Instruction

Stakeholders Work Team

The Ky Board of Education has received all of the Stakeholders Reports that we have worked on over the last year or so. KBE has asked the Ky Department of Education to pull together a report consolidating all of the recommendations presented in the Stakeholders reports. KDE has set up a Work Team with the following goal:

"The committee will put together an action plan for the school year of 2004-2005 for both KSD/KSB and a long-term plan. It will be focused on these common themes pulling information and strategies for all 16 stakeholders reports."

This Work Team is made up of Christi Bailey, Fran Hardin, Debbie Martin, Wilton McMillan, Bobbie Beth Scoggins, Diane Haynes, and Rita Zirnheld. They will focus on the following topics:

- curriculum and how it ties with language/communication needs
- professional development
- outreach
- technology
- what is the ideal inclusive classroom
- family
- legislative issues
- collaborative services
- state of the art programs
- resources that might be
- transition

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ARC MEETINGS...

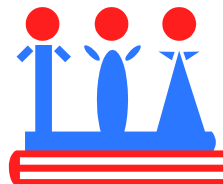
What are they all about?

Why are they important?

Spring is the time when many ARC meetings are held. Often, families, especially new families, do not know what these meetings are for or what to do about them! Unluckily, parents sometimes choose not to even attend or participate because they don't understand how important their child's ARC meeting is... Here's some information that we hope will help all families learn how ARC meetings can help their child. This information is taken from "Step by Step," written by the Kentucky Early Childhood Transition Project.

"... The ARC will develop a written Individual Education Program (IEP). The IEP is written especially for your child. The Admissions and Release Committee (ARC) develops and reviews the IEP. AS PARENTS, YOU ARE IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF THIS TEAM. The law requires that each child's IEP be developed by a team of people, not just one person. The

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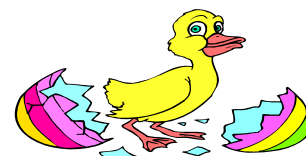
Supporting our children through home-school communication.

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INSERTS:

- * Family Learning Vacation
- * KSD PTCA Meeting
- * KSD Summer School
- * Family Lrng Get Aways



The Kentucky School for the Deaf's FAMILY EDUCATION NEWSLETTER is published monthly during the school year.

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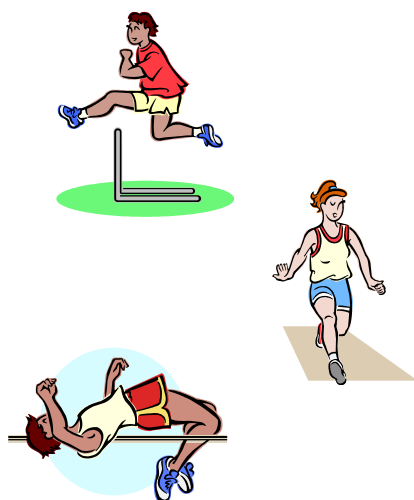
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Visit the KSD Homepage at www.ksd.k12.ky.us

To contact the KSD Family Education Newsletter Editor, Pat Bruce, call the school at 859-239-7017, ext 2503 (TTY or Relay Service); email her at pbruce@ksd.k12.ky.us, or write to KSD
PO Box 27
Danville KY 40423



ATHLETIC EVENTS



	High School-Middle School TRACK	Girls and Boys
April 1	Bardstown High School Invitational	at EKU
April 12	Harrodsburg High School Invitational	away
April 13	Boyle County High School Invitational	away
April 14	* Middle School at KSU	away
April 15	Bluegrass Conference Championship	at KSD
April 19	* Pulaski County Middle School	away
April 20	Woodford Co. High School Invitational	away
April 21	* Model Middle School	at EKU
April 27	Somerset High School Invitational	away
April 28	* Frankfort Middle School	at KSU

* Middle School only

GO KSD Colonels!!!

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Keeping Families Informed *continued from Page 1*

The Stakeholders Work Team would like your feedback on the reports that have been presented. The report from this group is due the end of April and will be presented to the Ky Board of Education at that time. You can send them email at KCDHH@mail.state.ky.us. You can review the minutes of their meetings as well as other important documents at <http://www.kcdhh.ky.gov>. Click on 'bulletin board' and then click on 'work team meetings'.

Facilities Planning Committee Report

by Bill Stearns, KSD/KSD Oversight Team

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) asked the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) to form a Facilities Planning Committee (FPC) to explore how the KSD campus and facilities could best be utilized to support the learning needs of the students it serves.

The FPC has met eight times since January 6, 2004. The FPC will present a facilities plan for the KBE to consider at its October, 2004 meeting. Recently, the FPC decided to invite interested partners to present ideas or describe collaborative interests or arrangements that could be mutually beneficial to KSD and its partners, as well as the entire Danville community.

The KSD PTCA has been invited to make a presentation to the KSD Facilities Planning Committee at one of its upcoming meetings. The FPC will not be meeting on April 6, 2004 due to spring break. Please contact me with questions/comments at: bstearns@kde.state.ky.us or call me at 502-564-4970.

* * * * *

INSERTS – We have again included several inserts with this issue of the KSD Family Education Newsletter. If you need more copies of any of these, feel free to make your own or contact the editor.

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JUST A THOUGHT... "The best way to be successful is to follow the advice you give others..."

taken from "God's Little Instruction Book"



FAMILY LEARNING GET AWAYS and FAMILY LEARNING VACATION

We have received several questions about FLGAs and the FLV. Here's some more information as we're trying to clear up some of the confusion... THANKS to CHANDLER HILL, from Wayne County for the updated logo!

Family Learning Get Aways are sponsored by the KEY Project. FLGAs are for families whose children are the ages of birth to 6 or 7). There will be 3 FLGAs across the state this year:

- * Saturday, April 17 - **Williamsburg**
- * Saturday, May 8 - **Olive Hill**
- * Saturday, May 22 - **Leitchfield**



Family Learning Vacation is hosted by Kentucky School for the Deaf. We will be on KSD's campus the weekend of June 11-13. FLV is open to families with a child who is of any age, up to 21.

Both the the FLGAs and the FLV are for families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing, regardless of which program the child attends and regardless of which mode of communication the family uses. See the attached flyers and registration forms for more information.

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ARC Meetings... *continued from Page 1*

"IEP tells the following:

- what your child can and cannot do (present level of performance);
- what your child is going to be working on during the coming year (annual goals and short-term objectives);
- what special services will be provided (specially designed instruction and related services);
- what special supports and services your child will need to function in the ... classroom;
- when special services will start and how long they will last;
- how and when they will measure your child's progress and how and when they will share this information with you; and
- who is responsible for implementing short-term objectives.



"After writing the IEP, the ARC will decide where the services will be provided. This is called 'placement.' ... The school district will have a 'continuum' or range of how services can be delivered. This includes mainstream classes, special classes," KSD, etc. Placement can be changed from year to year depending on what the ARC, including the parents, decides the best meets your child's needs. *(added by editor)*

"You may want to offer suggestions on what adaptations/accommodations could be made to support your child.... Remember, your presence is very important at all ARC meetings because you are your child's best advocate. This is your opportunity to exercise your decision making rights as a member of the ARC."

Good communication is the key to any successful relationship. Build your relationship with your local school district by talking with the Director of Special Education frequently between ARC meetings. Let that person know how everything is going and any questions or concerns you might have. Let them know the GOOD things that are happening, too! You are always welcome and encouraged to talk with your child's teacher, student life staff, and the Due Process office here at KSD.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT KSD?

- ✓ Summer School - KSD will have its 2004 Academic Elementary-Middle School Summer program from Sunday, June 6 through Friday, June 25. This program is open to both KSD students and public school students. There is no program fee, but families are responsible for transporting their child to and from KSD on the weekends. The flyer and registration form are included with this issue of the KSD Family Education Newsletter. The registration form is due in before April 30th. Contact Nancy Mann, at KSD for more information.
- ✓ Congratulations to the KSD Middle School Teachers! Our Middle School teachers have been chosen to receive 2 RIF/Coca-Cola thematic classroom collections. This is a reward for the Middle School teachers having very successful RIF book distribution activities this year. They displayed their students' RIF posters at the Danville-Boyle County Public Library.
- ✓ Middle School Multi-Cultural Festival - On Friday, April 2, you are invited to visit the KSD Middle School. They will be in Thomas Gym from 9:00-11:30 am. The students will demonstrate traditions and information from the cultures of Mexico, Native American Indians, the African-American community, and the Deaf community.
- ✓ KSD PTCA Parent Meeting - KSD families are invited to join the PTCA on Thursday, April 22nd, at 6:30 pm in the Walker Hall cafeteria. The PTCA is working hard to support the needs of our children at KSD. We will be discussing upcoming training opportunities, being involved with the School Council as well as continuing to plan the Pancake and Sausage Day events. Refreshments and childcare will be provided. Out of town families are welcome to stay in the Brady Hall guest apartments, at no charge. Contact Pat Bruce to make a reservation.
- ✓ Please help keep our contact information up to date - The KSD staff is very good about updating our computers with your addresses and phone numbers. This helps us stay in touch with you. Unluckily, all too often, the addresses and/or phone numbers we have are not correct. This results in mail being returned, phone calls not getting through, and a general lack of information getting to you. In emergencies, it can mean taking a lot of time to track down families. Please give us your most recent contact information on:
 - mailing address
 - home and work phone numbers
 - email

Complete and return to Faneshia McPherson at KSD

or email her at fmcphers@ksd.k12.ky.us

Student's Name: _____

Parent/s' Name/s: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone Number: _____ Work Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____



AROUND THE STATE...

Paducah (Mayfield and Benton, too) Silent Dinner and Sign Language Practice - This group will meet at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, April 27th at Ryan's Family Steak House in Paducah. If you've not joined this group for a 'silent dinner' before, you are welcome to get involved now. Contact Paula at 270-443-3055 (v/tty) or humphreys@ksd.k12.ky.us if you plan to attend. She needs to inform the restaurant of the numbers. Bring a friend or two... Have a GOOD time! All ages are welcome!



N.Ky/KSD Regional Program - Spring Family Sign Classes will begin April 13 and continue for 9 weeks with the last class being held on June 8, 2004. Classes are held at River Ridge Elementary School on Tuesday evenings from 6-8 pm. The classes are open to any families with school-age deaf or hard of hearing children. There is no cost for the classes and childcare is also provided at no cost. For more information, contact Sue Frisbee at 859-426-8036.

The NKY/KSD Regional Program is searching for anyone who may be interested in substitute teaching and can fluently communicate in sign language. The requirements to become a substitute teacher for the Kenton County School District are that the person has completed a minimum of 64 college credits (and that can be in any area), and must attend a one-day orientation. The daily rate of pay for substitutes is \$105. If you are interested or know anyone who may be interested, please contact Sue Frisbee, Director of the NKY/KSD Regional Program at 859-426-8036.

Deaf-Blind Retreat - This year's KY Association of the Deaf Blind (KADB) Retreat is scheduled for the weekend of May 21-23 at the Ky Leadership Center in Faubush. The Saturday workshop will be presented by Michael Brennen who has Usher II. In addition to the workshop, a variety of fun activities are planned. As always, there will be lots of entertainment and good food for everyone. Contact Janis Friend for more information. 209 St. Clair Street; Frankfort, KY 40601 or call her at 502-564-4440. Her email address is JanisK.Friend@ky.gov.

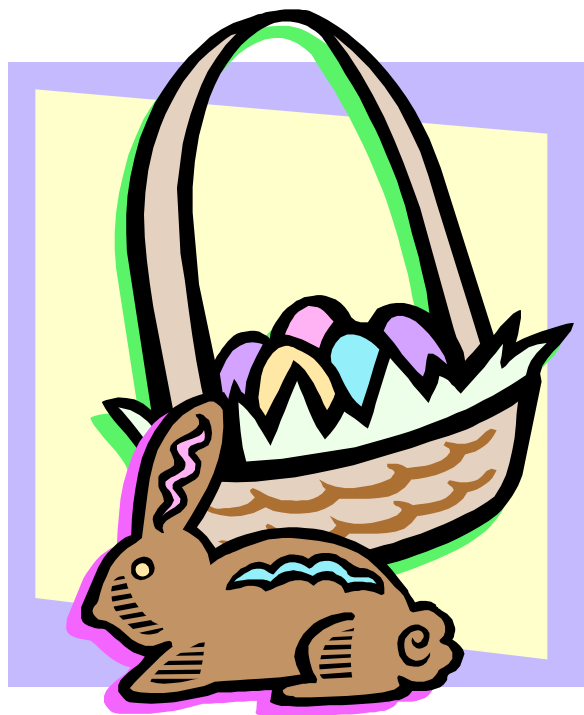


Good idea! Dana Rouse, KSD parent from Lincoln County has suggested that you check out this website: newsletters@about.com. They have a Deafness Guide that seems to have a lot of good information. Thanks, Dana!

Other suggested websites:

- The literacy pages of the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center have been revamped with a revised look and some new content. You will find information about literacy projects, resources, links, the Kendall Library, literacy materials and products, and much more. Go to: <http://clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/Literacy/index.html>.
- Videophone booths let deaf folks chat... The Salt Lake Tribune has an article about the recent growth of videophones with the deaf community. (*we are starting to see these here in KY, too!*) Go to: www.sltrib.com/2004/Feb/02032004/business/135188.asp
- Lou Ann Jones with the Ky Infant Sound Start program has recommended this website as a good resources for families. www.raisingdeafkids.org/ Thank-you, Lou Ann!

*What good resources do you know about? Let us hear from you!
We'll put your suggestion in the next issue of the KSD Family Education Newsletter.*



APRIL CALENDAR

Friday, April 2 - 1:00 Student Homegoing
and the start of Spring Vacation

April 3 - 12 - NO SCHOOL Spring Vacation

Wednesday, April 14 - Toddler-Time
Playgroup in Walker Hall at 1:00

Saturday, April 24 - High School Prom
Danville Community Center
Pictures - 7:00pm
Dance - 8:00 to midnight.

Wednesday, April 28 - Toddler-Time
Playgroup in Walker Hall at 1:00

April 26-30 - CATS Review Week

FAMILY EDUCATION NEWSLETTER
Kentucky School for the Deaf
PO Box 27
Danville, KY 40423